



January 2006

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties
www.ebcnps.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chapter Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 4, 7:30 pm, home of Barbara Leitner, 2 Parkway Court, Orinda

Native Here p. 8

Fridays, Jan 6, 13, 20, 27 Native Here Nursery open 9 am -noon

Saturdays, Jan 7, 14, 21, 28 Nursery open 10 am -1 pm

Field Trips p. 4

Sunday, January 8, 2:00 pm, **Huddert County Park**

(San Mateo County)

Saturday, February 4, 10:00 am, **Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland**

Sunday, January 15, 10:00 am, **Marin CNPS Chapter field trip to Tomales Bay State Park**

Saturday, January 28, 9:00 am, **Marin Chapter field trip to Myco-Blitz Mushroom Foray, Point Reyes National Seashore**

Membership Meeting see below

Wednesday, January 25, 2005, 7:30-9:00 pm

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

A Celebration of Nature and *Bay Nature's* Fifth Anniversary

Speakers: Michael Ellis, Phyllis Faber, Jack Laws, and Greg Sarris

Wednesday, January 25, 2005, 7:30-9:00 pm

Location: James Moore Theatre, Oakland Museum (directions below)

Admission is free: seating is limited

Join other nature lovers in celebrating the fifth anniversary of *Bay Nature* magazine, which has been exploring nature in the Bay Area each season since January of 2001. David Loeb, the founder *Bay Nature*, wrote in his first editor's column, "*This is what I hope you'll get from Bay Nature: a window onto the corner of the world you inhabit, as well as a deeper knowledge of the natural patterns that lie just under the surface of the familiar.*" Through words and images, *Bay Nature* teaches us about the world around us, deepening our experience of nature in the Bay Area—and winning awards along the way.

But *Bay Nature* has a larger mission. Through its celebration of the Bay Area's natural world, it inspires us to explore and preserve the region's natural heritage and nurtures productive relationships among the many

organizations and individuals working toward these goals. In this spirit of collaboration, we are combining our January CNPS membership meeting with *Bay Nature's* anniversary celebration.

The celebration will include presentations by several luminaries in the Bay Area environmental community. Michael Ellis, a naturalist, teacher, and gifted storyteller, will share his experiences of exploring nature in winter. Our own Phyllis Faber, editor of the UC Press Natural History Guides and CNPS's former Vice-President of Publications and *Fremontia* editor, will talk about *Bay Nature's* role in the Bay Area environmental conservation movement. Jack Laws, artist, naturalist and teacher, will share his talents in a live illustrated demonstration projected for all to see. Greg Sarris, acclaimed author, screenwriter and scholar, and Tribal Chair of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, will discuss California Indians' relationships with the natural world.

Please contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or email rosacalifornica@earthlink.net, if you have any questions.

The Oakland Museum is located at 10th and Oak Streets in downtown Oakland. There is a wheelchair
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accessible entrance ramp at 10th and Fallon.

Directions to the Museum by car:

From the south: Take 880 North to the Oak Street exit. Turn right on Oak Street and go four blocks to Oak and 10th.

From the west: After crossing the Bay Bridge, take 580 East to 980 West. Take the Jackson Street exit. You will be on 5th Street. Continue straight to the third stoplight, which is Oak Street, and turn left. Continue on Oak Street to 10th Street.

From the east: Take Highway 24 towards San Francisco, then take 980 West. Take the Jackson Street exit. You will be on 5th Street. Continue straight to the third stoplight, which is Oak Street, and turn left. Continue on Oak Street to 10th Street.

From the north: Take 580 East to 980 West (downtown Oakland). Take 980 to the Jackson Street exit. You

will be on 5th Street. Continue straight to the third stoplight, which is Oak Street, and turn left. Continue on Oak Street to 10th Street.

Parking:

The Museum garage can be entered on Oak Street in the block between 10th and 11th Streets. Parking fees are \$2.50 per hour. There is additional parking on surrounding streets.

From BART (3 blocks):

Take BART to the Lake Merritt station. Take the 19th Street exit and walk down Oak Street with the one-way flow of traffic to 10th Street. The Museum is on your right. The entrance is up the steps on Oak Street between 10th and 12th Streets.

AWARDS TO EAST BAY CHAPTER MEMBERS

Congratulations to Charli and John Danielsen, who were elected CNPS fellows at the Chapter Council meeting on December 3 in Berkeley. Charli and John have been active in the Society for decades, serving in numerous offices at both the state and chapter levels. Among their many notable accomplishments was the establishment and management of the Native Here nursery in Tilden Park, one of the first native plant nurseries to grow and offer for sale local ecotypes from the two-county chapter area. The East Bay Chapter is proud to have two such exemplary members. A full account of their contributions will appear later this year in *Fremontia*.

Also honored at the Chapter Council meeting was Delia Taylor, who received the Volunteer's Award. Delia was recognized for her impressive outreach and educational methods through the past years as Membership Chair for the chapter. During her tenure, Delia has kept the chapter's membership level among the largest of all the chapters by carrying CNPS's message to many different venues including the Solano Stroll, the East Bay Native Garden tour, educational fairs, and count-

less other events. Our Chapter's members account for more than 10% of the state's total membership and are a critical source not only of revenues but also talent and elbow grease!

Delia was also the moving force behind the 40th Anniversary Party hosted by the East Bay Chapter. Among the highlights of that gala event was a special first-time award given by the state CNPS Horticulture program to the East Bay Chapter. Present to accept the award were Shirley McPheeters, our outgoing chair, and other plant sale volunteers past and present. Proceeds from the plant sale, a time-honored tradition, are an important source of income that helps fund many of the chapter's programs.

In all, these awards represent the many thousands of hours of dedicated work and service performed by an impressive array of folks. Our heartfelt thanks to all of them for their gift of time and talent to our chapter.

Laura Baker

CELEBRATING CNPS' 40TH ANNIVERSARY

In 1965, a small group of dedicated native plant lovers celebrated victory after a three-year-long battle over the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. At stake were the future location of the garden and the continued employment of its founding director. This group of budding activists had learned of plans within the East Bay Regional Park District to expand the Tilden

Golf Course into the garden area, move the garden to Anthony Chabot Regional Park, and replace Jim Roof as director. Organizing in 1962 as the Friends of the Tilden Park Botanic Garden, the group successfully convinced the Park District that the Botanic Garden should remain in its original location along Wildcat Creek in Tilden Park and that Jim Roof, who had cre-

ated the garden, was still the best man for the job of director. The decisive meeting in this battle took place in the Brazil Room in 1965. After the meeting, the victorious Friends group was loath to disband and realized its power to influence public opinion and policy. Forty years ago, they formulated a new mission to work for conservation of California's native flora and started the California Native Plant Society.

Thanks to the generosity of the East Bay Regional Park District, we were able to celebrate the 40th anniversary of CNPS in the same beautiful room that hosted its birth. On December 2, 2005, two hundred CNPS members and supporters gathered for an evening of fine food and drink, sublime live jazz, proclamations of appreciation, a silent auction and raffle of fun and amazing items and field trips, and, most importantly, the companionship of friends united through a common goal—the preservation of California's native flora. This has been a rough year for CNPS in a number of ways, but the mood at the celebration was festive, upbeat, and unified.

Beverly Lane and Jean Siri, East Bay Regional Park District directors, recognized CNPS's importance in the environmental community with a proclamation from the East Bay Regional Park District celebrating CNPS's 40th anniversary. Scott Fleming, one of the founders of CNPS, reminded us of our history; Jessica Olson discussed the role of the East Bay Conservation Analyst; and Peigi Duvall, for the state Horticulture Program, surprised us all by presenting the first ever horticulture award to the East Bay Chapter for its long-time

contributions to native plant horticulture through its annual plant sale.

The party also raised about \$4000 for the East Bay Conservation Analyst fund through a silent auction and field trip raffle. The auction tables were packed with a potpourri of items related to native plants. If you weren't able to attend, here's a small sampling of what you missed: a pot of *Brodiaea jolonensis* bulbs from Wayne Roderick's garden, a bottle of Jepsen brandy, a copy of Lester Rowntree's out-of-print *Flowering Shrubs of California*, panoramic photos of this spring's spectacular desert wildflower bloom, and a night in an open-air cabin on private land in the Sierra. Elsa de Becker drew winning raffle tickets for the field trips (move over, Vanna White), coincidentally drawing her mother Sally's ticket first (hmm!). The lucky winners will attend private field trips to Mines Road with Lee Ellis, the Mendocino coast area with Steve Edwards, the Sequoia Demonstration Forest with Matteo Garbelotto, and the Vasco Caves Regional Preserve with an East Bay Regional Park District naturalist.

But none of us would have been at this wonderful party if not for the dedicated efforts of that early group of native plant enthusiasts and the continuing efforts of many volunteers through the years—right down to the night of the party. Thank you to everyone who helped, donated, or just shared the enthusiasm of the evening.

Delia Taylor and Sue Rosenthal

CONSERVATION

The East Bay Chapter has been fortunate to have Jessica Olson as our first Conservation Analyst. Her main task was to glean pertinent information from the chapter's plant scientists in order to prepare timely comments on a number of land use planning issues. During her tenure one of the most important projects was the Environmental Impact Report and Final Habitat Conservation Plan for East Contra Costa County. Jessica's last day with CNPS was November 30, and she submitted the chapter's final comments on the HCP during that week.

Having an analyst did not decrease volunteer involvement, but focused it and increased volunteer effectiveness. Jessica would write a brief outline or script on an issue, making it easier for members to represent us at council meetings, public hearings, etc. Conservation committee members could always find time to refine, add to or edit a letter initiated by the analyst, but had found it hard to prepare letters in time to meet deadlines.

Jessica is now employed full time by the Sonoma Ecology Center where she continues her interest in native plant restoration. Funds are being raised to continue the position, and a successor will be hired around the first of the year.

Charli Danielsen

This song of the waters is audible to every ear, but there is other music in these hills, by no means audible to all . . . On a still night, when the campfire is low and the Pleiades have climbed over rimrocks, sit quietly and listen . . . and think hard of everything you have seen and tried to understand. Then you may hear of it—a vast pulsing harmony—its score inscribed on a thousand hills, its notes lives and deaths of plants and animals, its rhythms spanning the seconds and the centuries.

Aldo Leopold

EAST BAY CHAPTER PLANT SALE, OCTOBER 2005





Shirley McPheeters, outgoing Plant Sale Chair

Photos by Judy Thomas

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, January 8, 2:00 pm, **Huddert County Park (San Mateo County)**

David Margolies starts 2006 with an afternoon in search of fetid adder's tongue in bloom, which appears at this park earlier than almost anywhere in the Bay Area. See the December Bay Leaf for directions, and bring \$ for park entry and bridge toll. Only the heaviest rains cancel.

Saturday, February 4, 10:00 am, **Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland**

Join Chris Thayer in exploring the upper portion of Joaquin Miller Park for mushrooms and other fungi, along with a number of locally uncommon vascular plants that can be seen in early spring. This trip does not assume any previous knowledge of mushrooms. You can expect introductions to several different species, plus some field guidelines for mushroom/fungus keys, as opposed to more familiar plant keys. Duration of the trip will depend on the group, but we will always be within a short walk back to the parking lot. Only torrential rains cancel.

Directions: From Highway 13 (either north or south), take the Joaquin Miller Road exit and proceed uphill, all the way to the stoplight at Skyline Boulevard. Turn left at the stop light and follow winding Skyline Boulevard to the signs for Sequoia Arena. Turn left and park at the end of the Sequoia Arena parking lot, where the field trip will start. Do not park in the lot for Chabot Space & Science Center, which is limited to Planetarium visitors.

2 Marin Chapter field trips

Sunday, January 15, 10:00 am, **Tomales Bay State Park**

Join Gini and Dick Havel and Connie and Sandy Calhoun for a repeat of last year's highly successful mushroom walk on the Jepson/Johnstone loop trail. We will collect mushrooms in the morning and ID them during our picnic lunch. So bring your mushroom baskets, your mushroom collecting tools and your mushroom books. Meet at the Jepson trailhead just south of the entrance to Tomales Bay State Park on Pierce Point Road.

Directions: Take the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, and follow the signs to 101 South. The road becomes Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Take Drake all the way, through Fairfax and Samuel P Taylor State Park, and take a right (going north) on Route 1. Follow the signs to Point Reyes Lighthouse. That will take you through the town of Inverness. Several miles past Inverness,

when Drake splits, take a right onto Pierce Point Road. Go another mile or so, and there's a free parking lot at the Jepson trailhead, just south of the entrance to Tomales Bay State Park on Pierce Point Road. If you see the sign for Tomales Bay State Park, you've gone too far. Turn around and look carefully for the (almost) hidden parking lot on the east side of Pierce Point Road.

Saturday, January 28, 9:00 am, **Myco-Blitz Mushroom Foray, Point Reyes National Seashore**

Meet Peter Werner at the parking lot in front of the Bear Valley Visitor Center. We will then carpool to another location, to be determined, to collect for the Pt. Reyes National Seashore/UC-Berkeley Myco-Blitz. This will be a biodiversity survey of mushroom species found throughout the national seashore, led by Tom Bruns; ours will be one of several teams participating. Bring mushroom collecting baskets, wax bags, digging tools or a pocket knife, water, lunch, and an extra layer of clothing for warmth. Be prepared to spend two or three hours in the field (volunteers are also needed to help document the fungi after the foray.)

On the following day, January 29, there will be a public display of fungi (a mini-fungus fair) at the **Bear Valley Visitor Center**, or at one of the nearby buildings.

Directions: Take Richmond-San Rafael bridge, and follow signs to 101 south. That road becomes Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Take Drake all the way through Fairfax and Samuel Taylor Park and take a right (north) on Route 1. Follow the signs to the Point Reyes Visitor Center at Bear Valley.

Janet Gawthrop

THE WAYNE RODERICK LECTURES WINTER 2005 - 2006

at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Wildcat Canyon Road and South Park Drive (South Park Drive is closed Nov.-March)
in Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley (510) 841-8732 E-mail Address: bgarden@ebparks.org www.nativeplants.org

Saturday Mornings 10:30 Free

Notice: Seating is limited. To be sure of a seat, come early and save a chair.

January

- 7 The botany of Pt. Reyes National Seashore—Steve Edwards
- 14 Joaquin Murietta country—Steve Edwards
- 21 California Classics—Dave Fross
- 28 The Oat Hill Mine Trail and Knoxville areas of Napa County—Dick O'Donnell

February

- 4 Botany and geology of Death Valley, including the great spring of 2005—Steve Edwards and a foray into the Panamints—John Game
- 11 A botanist's Greece—Bob Gibbons
- 18 The June Lake and Tioga Pass areas, plants of late summer—Bob Case
- 25 To be announced

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Chapter web site
www.ebcnps.org

Recorded Chapter Information
510-464-4977

State CNPS web site
www.cnps.org

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

____ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

____ Other _____

E-mail _____
(optional)

Membership category:

- ____ Student, Retired, Limited income, \$20
- ____ Individual, Library, \$35
- ____ Household, Family, or Group, \$45
- ____ Supporting, \$75
- ____ Plant lover, \$100
- ____ Patron, \$250
- ____ Benefactor, \$500
- ____ Mariposa Lily, \$1000

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816

NATIVE HERE

Fridays, Jan 6, 13, 20, 27 Native Here Nursery open 9 am -noon

Saturdays, Jan 7, 14, 21, 28 Nursery open 10 am -1 pm

The sun is low in the sky this time of year, and the shade cloaks everything. Find a bit of sun and cherish it because it doesn't last long. Keep moving around to stay warm. There's never a shortage of tasks to do at the nursery. Flick the pine needles off the screens and scrape them out of the pots, prick out seedlings that have sprouted and place them into new pots, transfer to larger pots plants that have outgrown their current pots, put new plants on the floor for sale and take away ones that have disappeared from their pots. A lot of those disappearing plants were nibbled by rodents or lagomorphs or kicked around by birds looking for little meals in the potting soil. John Danielsen has taken care of this problem by caging in most of our plants.

We still have lots of plants left even after our extended hours. Irises are available in 1-gallon pots, valley oaks

in long 1-gallon and 5-gallon pots, California fescue grasses in 1-gallon and long 5-gallon pots, coffeeberries and cream bushes in 1-gallon pots, wild roses and dogwoods and ninebarks in 2-gallon pots, and several species of plants for moist or wet gardens.

Bulbs are peeking out early this season. Soap roots are out on the floor and as *Triteleia* and *Dichelostemma* come up we will put them out.

Volunteers are welcome to help transplant, weed, and sow seeds. Brett, our intern last summer, helped all around with seed collecting on Tuesdays and transplanting on Fridays and Saturdays. Thanks also to Mel, Sarah, Janice, and Angus for their help on Fridays. We are located in Tilden Park at 101 Golf Course Drive (across the street from the entrance to the Tilden Golf Course), 510-549-0211.

Margot Cunningham, Native Here Nursery

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